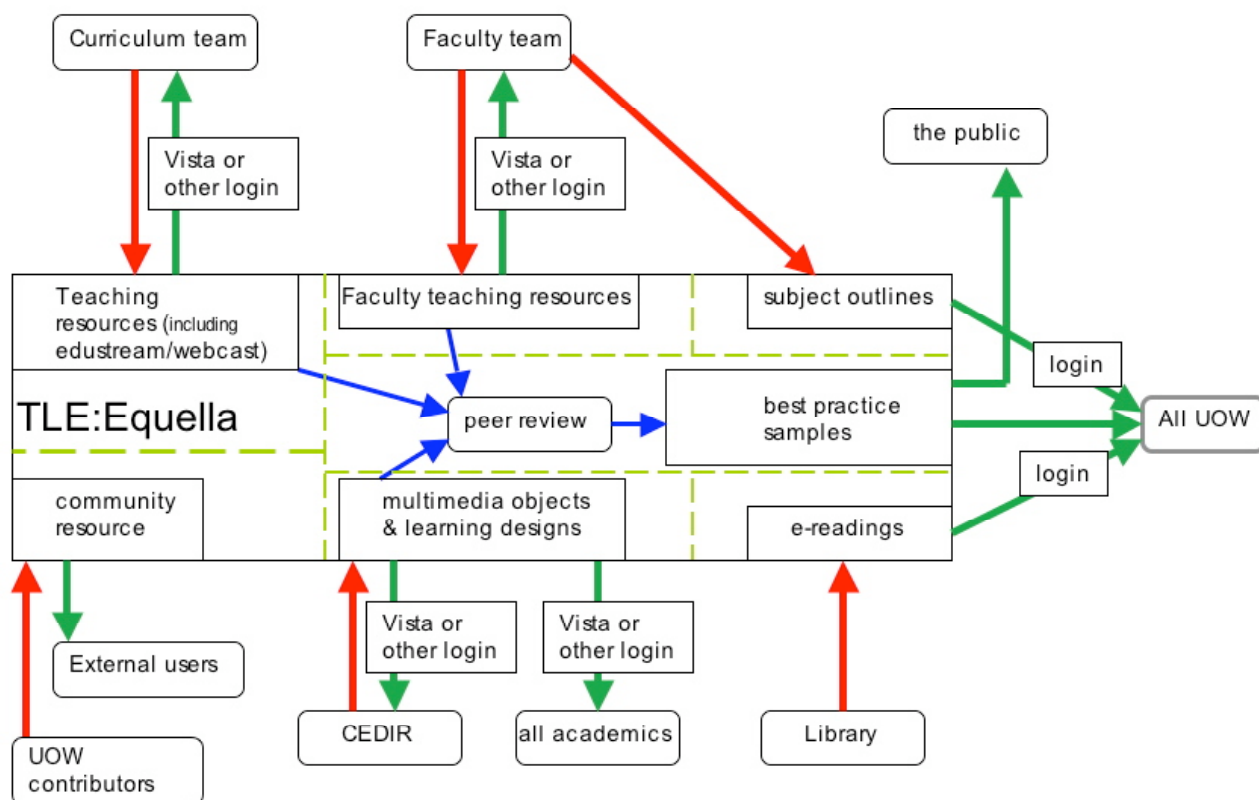# Sharing teaching resources

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UOW established a digital repository (or CMS) in 2006 to manage and deliver digital learning resources, for use initially by the UOW's Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) and delivered through Blackboard Vista. The system (Equella by TLE) is also intended to advance teaching in UOW through the sharing of teaching resources. Intended specific outcomes were identified at the start of the project, based on discussions and surveys of staff. The ultimate design is shown below.

The success of the GSM efforts partly derive from their non-standard metadata design which, by fully specifying the curriculum, allows staff to contribute and search for resources (e.g. diagrams, readings, animations, movies, lecture slides) without free-text entry, easing user interaction. The system allows us to define different 'item types', for holding different kinds of resources. Each of our three item types has its own metadata schema, contribution form, search, and contribution workflow.

In the wider University, a number of Faculty and support initiatives have been undertaken with varying degrees of success. At this stage most projects are focused on mapping and analysis of the curriculum as detailed by the resources being stored, rather than the sharing of resources between staff.

Ongoing issues include:

Standard vs local metadata
While initial efforts were made to use standardised schemas such as LOM, most current projects involve sharing between a limited group and do not require external communication, so schemas are specific to each collection. This has resulted in a wide variety of inventive schema, with staff groups learning from one another's developments.

Access permissions
For a variety of reasons, some staff are concerned about access to their resources by unauthorised people. This can be controlled through access permissions, but as the system grows, the maintenance of these becomes more time-consuming.

Culture change
As promotion and grant-winning have become more competitive within universities, these pressures reduce the sharing of ideas and innovations between staff. Academic culture is thus in opposition to the intention of our project.

The poster will report on the progress of the current projects and their prospects for further development and dissemination throughout the University and beyond.